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they were organizing a distinct labor bureau, on the model, as far as they could make it applicable to their country, of the Department of Labor of the United States. Still a little further back I had the pleasure of assisting at the organization of the French *Office du Travail*, and giving information before the superior council in somewhat similar fashion to what I am now giving you today. These things, I think, are plainly indicative of the fact that nations are becoming alive to the point which I have just been endeavoring to make, not to the experimental or possible benefit, but to the certain benefit, judging from the past utility of these organs of original social inquiry."

REPORTS OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS.

Fifth Biennial Report of the State Board of Corrections and Charities of Minnesota for the Year Ending July 31, 1892. Minneapolis, 1893. Pp. 256.

Reference has been made in previous issues of the *Publications* to the admirable system followed in tabulating the statistics of charities and corrections in Minnesota under the direction of its secretary, Rev. H. H. Hart. The classifications are clear and easily understood. A summary presents the number of public charges in each million of the population.

	In the United States.	In the North Central States.	In Minnesota.
In state prisons.....	722	491	332
In county jails.....	312	189	160
In juvenile reformatories.....	328	250	218
In almshouses.....	1,166	1,145	280
Insane persons.....	1,698	1,649	1,693
Dependent children.....	424
In soldiers' homes, etc.....
Of each 10,000 veterans.....	287	298	179

This is a most favorable showing for Minnesota, and would indicate that her immigrants have been of a higher standard than in other portions of the country. The ratio of paupers to each million of inhabitants was in June 3942, and in December, 5274. In some of the counties the ratio is more than twice as large. The average cost

per inhabitant for support of paupers is 23.7 cents. A strong plea is advanced in favor of a registration of paupers and criminals, a system carried out only in Massachusetts.

Twelfth Biennial Report of the Board of State Commissioners of Public Charities of Illinois. Springfield, 1893. Pp. 326.

As Mr. Wines, the secretary of the Illinois Board of Public Charities, has charge of the pauper and criminal statistics of the Eleventh Census, it is natural that special attention should be given in the state report to the statistical aspects of crime and misfortune. This is done in Chapter IV. It is concluded that the aggregate burden of the insane, idiots, deaf and dumb, blind, paupers, and prisoners is much greater than it was forty years ago. The actual numbers in the United States of each class reduced to ratios per million of the whole population give the following table:—

RATIOS.

Classes.	1890.	1880.	1870.	1860.	1850.
Insane..	1,697	1,833	971	765	673
Idiots	1,526	1,533	636	602	881
Deaf and dumb.....	659	675	420	408	423
Blind.....	805	976	527	403	422
Paupers.....	1,166	1,320	1,990	2,638	2,171
Prisoners.....	1,315	1,169	853	607	290

“According to the foregoing statement there has been a surprising relative increase in the number of insane, idiots, deaf and dumb, and blind during the past twenty years. But this apparent increase is not real. It is due to the improved methods of enumeration of these special classes, introduced in the canvas of 1880 by Mr. Wines, with whom they originated, and they have been substantially followed by Dr. John S. Billings in 1890. The same remark applies to the enumeration of the paupers and prisoners; the relative number of paupers appears to have rapidly declined, and that of prisoners to have increased. But the figures are very misleading, and have given rise to many erroneous inferences.

“With regard to the so-called ‘defective’ classes it should be known that Mr. Wines, in 1880, supplemented the enumerators’ returns by correspondence with physicians, who added many names to the lists. This correspondence was not renewed in 1890, which accounts, at least in a large degree, for the seeming slight falling off

in the ratios in 1890, especially of the insane. It must further be said that Dr. Billings, for the first time in the history of the census, has attempted to enumerate all the deaf, including those deaf in one ear, or merely hard of hearing, and not included in the special class technically described as 'deaf mutes,' or the 'deaf and dumb.' He has also attempted to enumerate all the blind, including those blind in one eye, but able to see with the other. In the tables here given the blind in one eye and the deaf only, who are not deaf-mutes, are not included. But evidently the change in the method of enumeration may account for a part of the difference in ratio is between the census of 1880 and that of 1890.

"The census of paupers in 1880 and 1890 was confined to paupers in almshouses, and the figures showing the number 'outdoor' paupers returned are not included in the tables. Prior to 1880 it is obvious from inspection that the distinction was not made, and that the figures for previous years are based on no exact definition of the word 'pauper.' Hence, they are practically of no value whatever.

"Neither the paupers nor the prisoners were counted, before 1880, on any proper system, almshouse by almshouse, and prison by prison. It is well known that the figures are a guess, and a very bad guess at that. The figures of 1880 and 1890 are worthy of confidence."

Eleventh Biennial Report of the Michigan State Board of Corrections and Charities, 1891-92. Lansing, 1893. Pp. 169.

There are few general and comparative tables in this report. The aggregate daily average of inmates during the last year in penal institutions was 1179, an increase of only 15 as compared with five years ago. On the other hand, the Detroit House of Correction has an increase in monthly average of over 294. The total number of insane in state charitable institutions in 1892 was 3468, as compared with 2576 in 1887.

THE CIVIL SERVICE OF BUENOS AYRES.

Estudio Estadístico del Presupuesto Nacional seguido de un Proyecto de Reforma del Mismo, etc. By Francisco Latzina. 1893. Pp. 75. Tables.

In the introduction to this work the author states that since the establishment of the Republic the statutory law has become, little by little,